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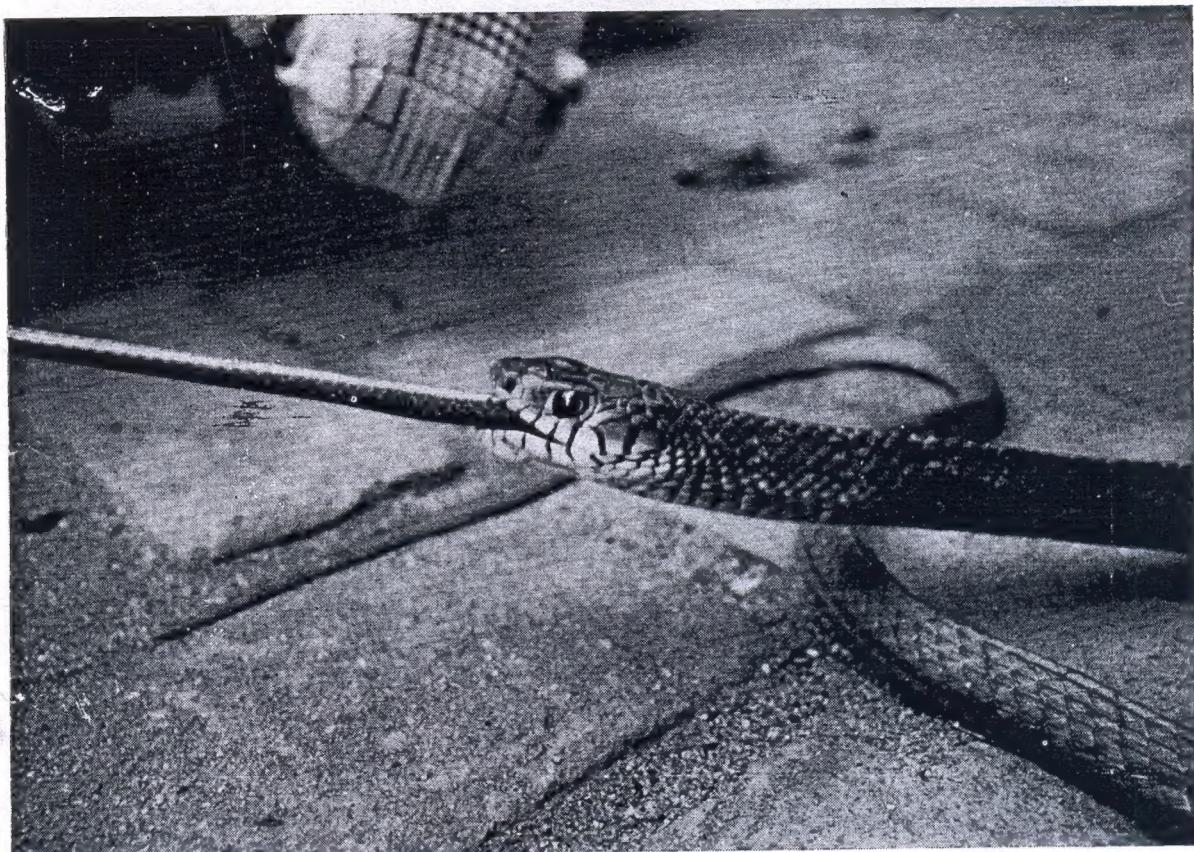
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# HAMADRYAD

(Tri-yearly Newsletter  
of the  
Madras Snake Park Trust)

5 (3)

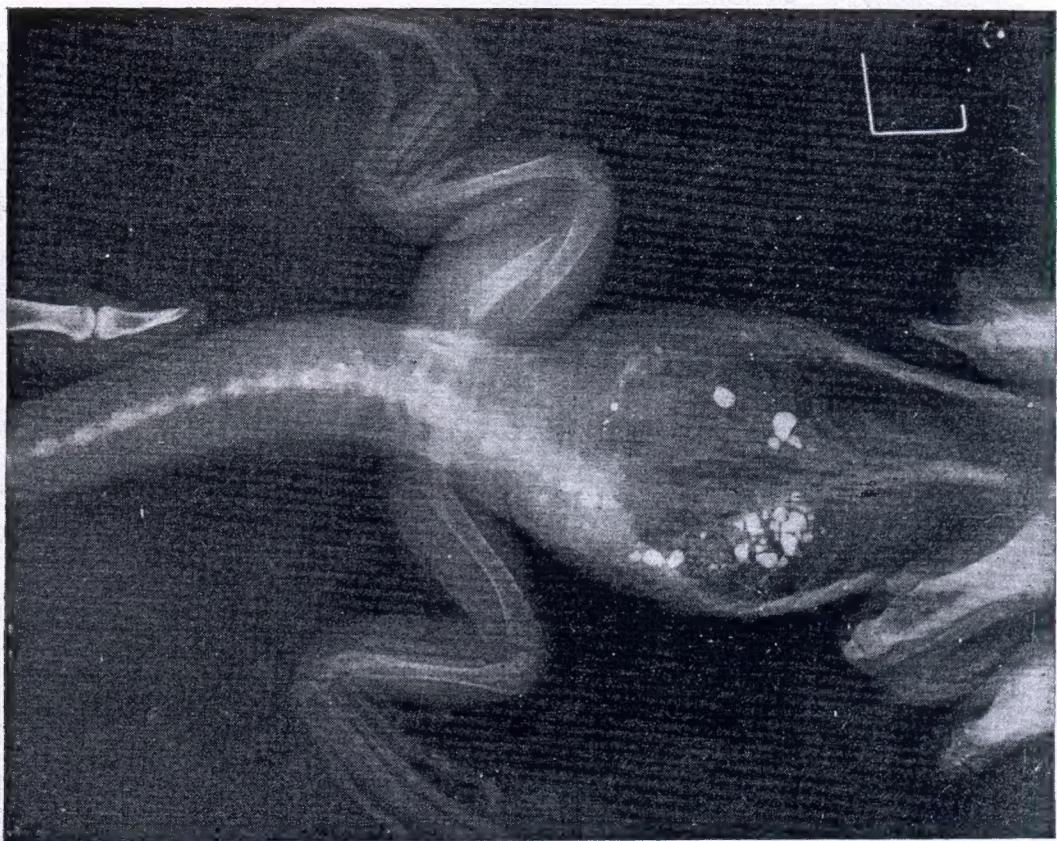
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Ophiophagous behaviour of the Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*)  
eating a Bronze back tree snake (*Ahaetulla tristis*)  
at the MSPT.

CENTRE FOR HERPETOLOGY  
MADRAS CROCODILE BANK  
POST BAG No. 4  
MAMALLAPURAM-603 104  
T.N., S. INDIA

June, July, August, September Issue



The X-ray of the spiral fracture of the femur bone of the female Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) at the MSPT which was set and treated.

HAMADRYAD: NEWSLETTER OF THE MADRAS SNAKE PARK TRUST

5:No.5

September 1980

From the Editor

I was reading "The exhibition of Reptiles concepts and possibilities" by Carl Gans a renowned figure on the subject of snakes along with A.P Van Den Sande.

An interesting feature is why a visitor is interested in seeing reptiles, especially snakes?. There seems to be a like/hate relationship. They intensely hate snakes but are extremely curious and like to see them.

In our own country it can be said that among all living creatures, snakes have played a very important part in Mythology, worship, naming of children, art, sculpture, dance forms and many more daily routines. There are rangolis in Tamilnadu known as 'pamba kolam'. Snakes have been used as Hero, in many of our Tamil and other feature films like 'Vellikalamaiv Ratham' etc. The other day I asked my friend why he named his son 'Nagbabu'. He promptly replied that his mother-in-law worships the Ant Hill every Friday and pours milk and prays for good progeny in the family. Also my friend's wife used to get dreams of cobra during her last month of pregnancy to which she vowed to name her new born after the 'Nag'. The visions did not trouble her after that and as she was being taken by car to the nursing home for delivery a cobra crossed the road. That's it! So finally the son was 'Nagbabu'. Mind you! this is the twentieth century and these incidents are still very much part of life.

A.N. Jagannatha Rao  
Editor

\* \* \*

News from the MADRAS SNAKE PARK TRUST AND  
MADRAS CROCODILE BANK TRUST

Scientific Notes

Birth Briefs

Here are the most notable births to take place at the Madras Snake Park Trust, during the last few months. If you would like more facts on any particular birth such as incubation, temperatures, sex and size of hatchlings etc. Please write to Madras Snake Park Trust.

On March 17, 1980 (1:00PM - 3:00PM), the Snake Park's female Common Green Iguana (Iguana iguana) laid eggs in a nest she had excavated in her exhibit. 71 days later, on May 26th the hatchlings began to emerge and continued to do so until the morning of the 29th at which time the nest was examined.

Of the 41 eggs, 27 Iguanas successfully hatched. The remaining eggs were infertile or contained dead embryos in various stages of development. It is interesting to note that 2 of the hatchlings were eaten by their female parent shortly after emergence on the 1st and 2nd day.

The remaining 25 hatchlings are now on public display and growing as fast as the weeds they eat!

\* \* \*

On May 27th, 1980 (late AM) shortly after being isolated in a wooden box, the snake park's 2.45 meter female Indian Python (Python molurus molurus) laid a clutch of 16 eggs. The box had screen openings on either end and was kept in a shaded portion of the python exhibit covered with canvas which was kept moist in order to raise the humidity within.

On July 23rd, 58 days later and with the female in constant motherly attendance, the 2 top most eggs developed splits by the morning of July 26, 8 hatchlings had emerged, 4 males and 4 females. Within 3 weeks all hatchlings had begun feeding voluntarily on small bandicoot rats (Bandicota bengalensis).

Four times a day during the incubation period a thermometer was inserted between the female's coils and into the clutch center, her only response to this intrusion being a violent jerk.

Bob Larson

Technical Adviser.

\* \* \*

The single breeding pair of crocodiles at Madras Snake Park Trust once again successfully mated and laid 11 eggs on the night of March 5th 1980. The incubation period was 78 days and on the night of 22nd May 9 young crocs hatched.

The last years 12 hatchlings are being kept in the pit with the new additions. The fresh batch of crocs have adjusted themselves very well with the 12 yearlings.

When the new hatchlings were last measured on 25th Sept. they weighed each 433 gms on average and had gained an average of 110 gms each since last month.

J. Vijaya, B.Sc. Zoology (Volunteer) MSPT.

\* \* \*

On 2nd June 1980 night the Snake Park's Echis carinatus produced 4 young ones in a small cage. Vipers do not lay eggs like other snakes as rat snake, python and cobras. They are viviparous.

On 3rd June 1980 8.45AM we found that the above snake gave birth to one more young one along with mucus membrane which was jelly in nature.

The young ones were 10-12 cms in length and more active during the day. 3-4 hours after birth all young ones which were born on 2nd June moulted their skins. Again we saw one more birth of a young one on 4 June. Strangely we found the new born moulting once more within 2 days of their 1st moulting. It is said that while they are young this happens often. Saw-scaled vipers produce a hissing sound like a cobra but in a different manner. They rub their scales in the

opposite direction and produce this sound when excited.  
Whereas cobras hiss with their lung power.

Dharmarajan B.Sc. Zoology (Technical Assistant) MSPT

\* \* \*

This years catch of hatchlings of crocodile was quite impressive as last year, says Allen Vaughan our Manager at Crocodile Bank. There were 211 young born. The eggs were laid by four breeding pairs during the month of April/May which hatched in June/July. The hatching percent was over 70.

\* \* \*

### Recovery

In March one of the pair of 1.5 meter (Iguana iguana) Central American lizard the female broke a bone (Spiral fracture) of the femur on its rear left leg while trying to leap over the tree stump. An X-ray was taken at the Kalyan Clinic, Adyar and was set by Bob Larson. The fracture healed in 3 weeks time.

\* \* \*

### Observations

#### Rat Snake (Ophiophagus)

For the past few years we have intermittently observed the snake-eating habits of the Indian rat snake (Ptyas mucosus). Our Director, Mr. Whitaker, has published a note on this feature for the Bombay Natural History Society.

The Rat snake is especially famous as a rat-eradicator. So much so, it is widely known in our agricultural country as the "Farmer's friend". Though it is not a much publicised fact, we have observed Rat snakes feeding on striped keel backs and occasionally a checkered keel back even. Mr. Whitaker, in his note reports seeing a large Rat snake seizing a smaller one which later escaped. He feels that the Rat snakes prefer mice, rats, frogs etc., but in the absence of enough food will attack and devour other snakes including its own kind.

So it seems this Ophiophagus habits are not confined to king snakes and king cobras alone. I remember a few years back talking to one of our Irula tribals, Annamalai, about the Rat snake's snake-eating habits. He recalled that once on their snake hunting jaunts, he and his companions had come upon a large two-metre Rat snake which was immediately caught. Later when they skinned the animal, they found a small size cobra (Naja naja) in its guts!

J Vijaya (volunteer) MSPT \*

\*

Most snakes are harmless and non-poisonous in India. In our park we have more than thirty types of non-poisonous and poisonous snakes together in our demonstration area. I wish to give a bit of information about moulting and mating habits which we have seen here. During the moulting stage the snakes are

temporarily blind because their eyes are covered by the developed coat or skin. They won't take diet at all. After moulting snakes look bright and feel hungry and feed well.

At first, snakes rubs their heads against stones, branches of trees or with any rough objects. It is easy to remove the body skin after removing the skin on the head.

During the mating season female and male come together play with each other by touching face to face and then the male inserts its sex organ into the female sex organ and also coil both the bodies together. Female lays generally 20-30 eggs and they batch after two months. Babies can themselves run and swim soon after birth and feed on small insects, those small underwater beings.

A Subramani, B.Sc. Botany (Technical Assistant) MSPT

\* \* \*

#### Death

In mid July 1980 one of our Varanus Bangalensis 1 metre long became sick and died. During Necropsy we found, there were eggs. The information on period of incubation of Varanus is very sketchy. The editor invites more details like gestation period etc. regarding Varanus from readers.

\* \* \*

#### General News

The following trustees retired after nine years of service to the Madras Snake Park Trust due to heavy pressure on their professional work. We are grateful to them for being on our board and helping at all times.

1. Dr. Shri M Balasubramaniam M.B.B.S  
who helped us as a doctor and also made it easy for treatment of snake bites at the Royapettah Hospital.
2. Shri M.C. Ranganathan C.A.  
who helped all along with formation of the trust and advising us on the accounting procedures and helping us to get the exemption under income tax rules.

The following trustees have been Co-opted in their place

1. Dr. Shri K. Krishnan Murthy M.B.B.S., M.S., (Ortho)  
No.7, 1st Main Road, Kasturibaganagar, Madras-20
2. Shri P.V Laxminarayana C.A.  
Karpagambalnagar, Madras-4

In June our Trustee and Founder Mr. Romulus Whitaker who is currently on a UNDP assignment at Papua New Guinea, stopped over at Madras for a week along with his wife and child. They were on their way to USA where Rom is attending 3 seminars on crocodiles and presenting a few papers. During his stay Rom gave a talk illustrated with fine slides on the wildlife on Papua New Guinea.

\* \* \*

A new laboratory is being set up under the guidance of Bob Larson to conduct studies on regular growth rates of reptiles, study of diseases of reptiles in captivity, etc., The lab will have a microscope and a specimen photography unit also as part of its equipment.

\* \* \*

The enlargement of fine pictures of snakes which were taken by Shri M Krishnan (Trustee) especially for the last years Tourist Trade Fair have been permanently exhibited in our office with short write ups on each snake.

\* \* \*

To attract more Tourists sign boards have been put up in front of the crocodile bank at Vadanemmeli. Also a few small ones are located on the high way. The Tamil Nadu Government released the grant of the second instalment of Rs.25,000/- The water supply scheme, sinking of 2 wells, pump houses and distribution tanks were completed out of these funds. We are grateful for the assistance by the Tourism Department of Tamil Nadu.

\* \* \*

Also for the first time the saltwater crocodile pair mated and laid eggs. We were eagerly awaiting the results but unfortunately the eggs were not fertile. Let's hope that this is only a beginning and the next year it will be successful. The population of Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus porosus) is very low in India and restricted to Sunderbans in West Bengal and Bhitarkanika island in Orissa. Tamilnadu lost its place when the last porosus was shot in 1942.

\* \* \*

The interest and enthusiasm shown by the public in the past few years by their constant patronage to the Madras Snake Park Trust at Guindy has emboldened the Trust to expand, the educational trust by embarking upon the project to purchase land and put up permanent structures. The forest department had already agreed by a G.O. to lease an additional acre adjacent to the present location. Bowing to the sentiments of naturalist of Madras about the Guindy Deer Sanctuary becoming a National Park soon we have located a piece of land near Lattice Bridge. A portion has been bought and balance portion has been applied for to the Government of Tamil Nadu for release under the Urban Land Ceiling Act. As soon as this is done the preliminary works like roads, tree planting, wells etc. will commence. It is proposed to have a rural free dispensary to cater to all the villages nearby, with a special snake bite treatment ward. Also an auditorium, library, research facilities are being planned.

Most of the proposed reptile exhibits will be designed in a near natural habitat of the reptile.

The entire programme is dependent on the help and support of the Government of Tamilnadu and other agencies and it might take quite a few years before the new centre is opened to the public. Till then it will continue at Deer Sanctuary!

The struggle to save Silent Valley goes on. Our Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and Department of Science and Technology under M.G.K. Menon and well known figures like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan are devising ways to help the Kerala Government with an alternate site. We sincerely hope that the most valuable piece of biosphere will be preserved.

\* \* \*

Mr. Velayudan working in the Kerala State Electricity board, Calicut who is much experienced in handling snakes for a long long time undertook a 'Sarpa Yagna' to establish a world record by living with 50 poisonous snakes comprising of cobras, kraits, russells vipers etc., After a good start he was unfortunately bitten by cobras a few times. He interrupted his yagna after 20 days and was hospitalised for 60 hours.

Gallantly he re-started, but under the advise of his doctor and his committee, he had to give up the yagna which if continued would have given Mr. Velayudan a proud place in the Guinness book of world records.

He however went back and completed a stay of 75 hours with 75 snakes breaking the earlier record of 72 hours with 72 snakes held by Dr. Nelamkumar of Poona in June 1980.

\* \* \*

#### From our Trustees:-

An Interesting letter dated 23rd Sept. 1980 from Dr. M.V. Rajendran M.A., Ph.D., Director, Nellai Snake Park, Palayamkottai and Acting Director of Madras Snake Park Trust.

I had a severe cobra bite on the right index finger while bagging a new 5½ footer. Immediately I applied light ligation, squeezed the blood from the finger, drank within 1½ hours 6 doses (1 ounce) Echinacea-Q in water. Three hours later since my wife insisted, we went to Dr. Victor Dorairaj, made an incision, removed all the blood and remaining poison from the finger, then cut the ligature, there was no side effect except severe pain on the cut point. Took an injection of cortisone and came home. No symptoms of poison effect in the system. Next day morning I resumed work, routine cycling etc. but a small quantity of poison had infiltrated the skin and spread on the hand causing swelling. A few injection of antibiotics were given and echinacea. Urine test showed + 3 sugar. The Doctor was wondering why the wound was not healing. 3 doses of insulin I have taken. No antivenin. I wanted to show that antivenin is not the only sure remedy. I am writing now using my ballpoint resting on the foot of index finger and holding with finger 1 and 3.

\* \* \*

Dr. K. Krishnamoorthy, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D. Ortho., F.C.G.P., (1)

Dr. K. Krishnamurthy our Trustee who was recently co-opted into our board visited Bangalore in connection with details of an injection to improve the clotting factor of human blood. He noted that the coagulation medium was obtained from the preparation of snake venom. In India it is believed that entire coagulant of this injection is imported from Brazil where pioneering work has been done long before, on use of snake venom to control excessive human bleeding.

From the discussion with the top management of the manufacturers he felt that a research sponsored by this Pharmaceuticals unit of Bangalore could be initiated under the auspices of the Madras Snake Park Trust with a medical officer and a chemist.

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A fine piece of efficient enforcement of the Wildlife Act by the Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu Forest Department - Shri Wilson Dorairaj, Trustee, Madras Snake Park Trust.

Snake skins seized from tannery - Hindu 25/9/80

Madras Sept. 24th - around 17 thousand numbers of snake skins worth more than Rs.50,000 was seized from a private tannery in Pallavaram by the State Forest Department Officials on Tuesday.

Under Section 50(1) (C) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 the Wildlife Warden was empowered to seize any animal article, trophy or uncured trophy held unauthorisedly, said Mr. Wilson Dorairaj, Wildlife Warden, Madras.

Skins of cobra, rat snake and many other non-poisonous snakes were recovered from the tannery which was allegedly processing them without licence.

Trading of snakes skins required "dealership licence" and to convert the hides to finished articles "manufacturing licence" is needed.

The tannery had procured the snake skins through unauthorised dealers mostly from Tiruchi District and the neighbourhood of Madras. The department had suspended the issue of trapping licence of snakes from 1978, Mr. Dorairaj said.

Courtesy "the Hindu".

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The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is one of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation ever to be promulgated towards the cause of our native fauna. To nature lovers both within and outside the Forest Department, this Act came as a boon. The various provisions of the Act, almost put an end to all forms of trade in wildlife. Also, for genuine dealers in business, a system of licences with strict conditions for violations, if any, were prescribed.

However during the course of implementation for well over 6 years all over India, certain amendments were considered necessary for better protection and easy implementation. Also some more animals were given protection by amending the various schedules. The latest amendment to schedules was issued by Government of India during the second week of September, 1980 and these will take effect from 2nd October 1980. Among other things some of the new additions are as follows:

- i) All Hawks (Accipitridae) are now included in Schedule I.
- ii) Osprey is now in Schedule I.

- iii) Many species of butterflies and moths included in the families Amathusiidae, Danaidae, Lycaenidae, Nymphalidae, Papilionidae, Pieridae and Satyriidae also find a place in Schedule I.
- iv) A species of Dragon fly (*Epiophlebia laidlawi*) is included in Schedule I.
- v) Many species of beetles belonging to the families Carabidae, Chrysomelidae, Cucujidae, Inopeplidae, Amathusiidae, Damsidae, Brycinidae, Hesperiidae, Lycaenidae, Nymphalidae, Papilionidae, Pieridae, and Satyridae, are now included in Part II of Schedule II.
- vi) Besides all snakes, even fresh water frog (*Rana* species) are given protection under Schedule IV.
- vii) Certain other species of butterflies and moths belonging to the families Danaidae, Hesperiidae, Lycaenidae, Nymphalidae and Pieridae are also given protection under Schedule IV.

Shri K. Viswanathan, Asst. Director, Wildlife Regional Office, Madras. Trustee of MSPT

\* \* \*

#### A Python Killing Large Prey.

In the summer of 1976 I was in the Corbett Tiger Reserve. On the morning of April 11, I was proceeding on elephant back towards Amla Sot from the Dhikala campus. Periodically we had to leave the stream's sandy bank and make our way laboriously through the heavy undershrub of a 'sheesham island', a large gregarious stand of *Dalbergia sissoo* trees right by the water, and as we were entering one such 'island', I noticed a violent agitation on the ground, some 30 metres ahead of me. Obscuring branches barred a clear view, but I could see what looked like four white sticks being violently waved about in the air. Cautiously we moved higher and closer, and though twigs and foliage still obscured the view and made photography quite impossible, I could see what it was -- it was a chital hind in the coils of a python, on its back and with the legs in the air, and the deer was quite dead -- what agitated its legs was the constricting writhing of the snake's coils.

Unfortunately and in spite of my loud order to go back, the mahout moved the elephant straight ahead in his excitement, and at once the python left its victim and slid into the river in one swift, straight movement. But before that, I noticed that the snake had its fore-end in a coil just behind the deer's forelegs, and its tail-end in almost two coils just before the hindlegs of the deer, exposing the chest of its prey. And thrice I watched it raise its head and strike with open jaws at the chest of its victim, biting hard and drawing a thin ooze of blood.

When the python was gone, I asked the mahout to proceed at once, hoping that if we did not stay on but came back some time later, we might find the python back by its kill. That did not happen, but seeing there was nothing to be gained by avoiding the vicinity of the kill, I photographed it: it was an almost grown hind, whose weight I estimated around 35 kg., and in my pictures the bloody patch on the chest caused by the python's violent bites are clear. I can give you a close idea of the giant snake's size: as its snout

slid into the water its tail-tip was just clear of a small bush, and measuring the distance between the stream and the bush along the drag-mark left by the python, I found it was just one or two inches over 9 feet by my trustworthy tape.

There are several intriguing and interesting points raised by this incident. What puzzled me was the fury with which the python bit at its victim's chest, after already having suffocated it to death. I asked a few men, wise in the ways of snakes, why it should have done so, and they were unable to provide any likely explanation. My own explanation is that a medium-sized python, attacking prey the size of that chital needs to work itself up into a frenzy of aggression to be able to kill. The biting, though it contributes nothing to the killing, helps, purely instinctively, to work up the snake to the necessary violent activity. Of course you and I know that the python kills entirely by constriction, and that no snake tears its victim to death with its teeth as mammalian predators might, but the poor illiterate python does not know this, and so it bites in addition to suffocating its prey to death.

M. Krishnan, Trustee, MSPT.

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#### Madras Diary

Trades involving abominable cruelty are not confined to circuses and tribals. Handicraft shops in India abound with belts, wallets and purses made from snake skins obtained in a horribly cruel way. When caught by our tribals the snakes are nailed through the throat to a tree and skinned alive, the still living animal tossed aside to suffer the slow hideous death of being devoured by ants.

Several years ago I wrote an article on snakes for a famous American journal and in the course of my researches I visited a Madras snake-skin tannery. When I reported to the magazine the number of snakes-skins 'processed' there every day, the editor refused to believe me and wrote direct to the tannery asking for confirmation, which he promptly got. In that single tannery at that time, they were producing 3000 skins a day, and I was told sorrowfully that at one time the figure had been 5000.

Apart from the cruelty imagine the effect of that on our ecology! Snakes are the most important control of our greatest natural enemy, the rat. It is not going too far to say that without snakes there would be precious little rice for us to eat here in India, rats would get the biggest share. Moreover, snakes control rats without the complication of polluting the environment which is what we do when we use poisons to destroy vermin.

Why it is that respectable stores of handicrafts continue to sell products made from snake-skins when they are aware of all these facts I cannot imagine. I appeal to readers of this newspaper, and to all who are sensitive to the sufferings of animals and the care of our environment, not to buy anything made of reptile skins. The sellers need not fear for their profits, for there are plenty of excellent alternatives available.

Foreigners who buy cobra skin products as exotic novelties to take back home, should be informed of the damage they are doing and the cruelty involved. They will find, in any case that cobra skins are fragile things that won't last long.

**Harry Miller, Trustee, N.S.P.T.**

Courtesy "The Indian Express"

\* \* \*

### Some Reptile Lores

- 1) Sringeri the famous holy place of Sri Sankaracharya in Karnataka was selected by Adi Sankara during his digvijayam to select a centre to start the Sankara Mutt. It was raining on the banks of the river and a cobra was seen shielding from the rain water a frog (his natural prey) laying eggs which were likely to be washed away. This was indeed 'Punya Bhoomi' and immediately decided as the place for the mutt.
- 2) Here is a lore from Haryana.....  
There was a very poor woman. She was very pious and a devotee of Nagaraja. Her husband died soon after she delivered a child. Due to extreme weakness she could not give milk to her baby. So a sand boa used to encircle the cow's legs and enable her to milk the animal.
- 3) Here are a few names of persons given to respect the snake.....  
Nagalakshmi, Nagabhushanam, Seshaiah (persons)  
Nagpur, Nagercoil (towns)
- 4) Lore from Bihar (India).....

If the grass Snake 'Harhara' bites on a Sunday it would be poisonous but not so on the other days of the week.

- 5) It is said that there is a church in Goa, (India) which was built over the ruins of a Siva Temple demolished by the Christians and Muslims. On Mahasivarathri day a snake goes up and knocks down the cross on the spire. This is the only church on which a cross is tied with wires.  
(It is believed that tourist leaflets gives the above information).

\* \* \*

RRRING!- RRRING!- HELLO! 414821

Madras Snake Park here!..... There is a big snake in our compound!!! Could you please help us! We are all so frightened!!!! Please do not worry, the snake won't harm you. Do not panic! We will send our flying squad right away. Could you give your address please!.... The charges will be Rs.15/- (but only during working hours 8AM to 6PM)!!!! Anything Rs.15/- or Rs.50/- I don't mind but please come immediately!

Later on the party rings up after our team caught the snake. Thank you very much for the prompt action! Your people have educated us with the help of your calander about the snakes. Very much assured that there is no necessity for blind fear and panic about snakes.

We would like to come to the Madras Snake Park. What are your working hours? - Oh! 8.30AM to 6PM.

Thank you very much.

A typical snake service call.

## Appeal

From every state we welcome information on snake mythology, snake temple and worship, snake stories, snake cults, names of persons pertaining to snakes, details of snake design-jewellery or ornaments, details of different entertainment using snakes, products being manufactured using snake skin etc. and any other interesting snake news.

\* \* \*

### Important Visitors to Madras Snake Park Trust

Dr. C.R. Mohapatra  
Asst. Inspector-general of Forests  
Government of India  
Dated - 24/9/80

"I had my unique experience with the crown of Lord Shiva but today I am much impressed to see the garden of snakes. The visit has helped me to learn more of my environment:

\* \* \*

Shri M.V. Raghavan M.L.A., Cannanore  
Shri Syric John M.L.A.,  
Shri Ihoop M.L.A., Chalakudi  
Shri V.V. Dhakshana Moorthy M.L.A., Kerala

Dated - 18/9/80

"We feel that this sort of voluntary venture should be encouraged and helped by the Government and other agencies".

\* \* \*

Shri S.S. Mandal  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
West Bengal, Calcutta

Dated - 8/9/80

"This park has already found a place very justifiably in the wildlife map of India. I can only add my voice to the chorus of praise showered on this park by visitors from far and near".

\* \* \*

Mr. H.E. Kithong Vougsay  
Ambassador of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic  
Dated - 22/8/80

"There are so many kinds of snakes which are interesting to see. In our own country we don't have a park though there are so many varieties of snakes in our forest and jungles".

Shri A. Chakrapani B.A., L.L.B, M.L.C.,  
Government Chief Whip  
A.P. Legislative Council  
Hyderabad, A.P

Dated - 14/8/80

"I really received a good education on snakes. My experience during the visit is very exciting. I wish this institution to grow and my good wishes to the members and organizers of this trust.

\* \* \*

Shri M.K. Jha  
I.G., C.I.D. Bihar  
17, Hastings Road, Patna

Dated - 2/8/80

"I visited the snake park twice today once in the morning to see the wide varieties of reptiles and later in the afternoon to watch the extraction of venom from 2 cobras. The experience was exciting but what impressed me more was the manner and the words whereby the experts and workers have moved with careful carelessness inside the snake pits, full of scores of snakes of all kinds; more so their earnest desire to dispel wrong beliefs regarding snakes are dangerous creatures. The visit was interesting and very educative".

\* \* \*

Shri H.E. Haumoon Abdul Gayoom  
President of Maldives

Dated - 1/6/80

"My family and I were most impressed by the snakes displayed at the park and the information given to us".

\* \* \*

Shri J.D. Tolia  
Director, Natural History Museum  
Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat

"Snakes all over the world suffer on account of prejudice man has inherited since the ages. Such snake parks would be of great value in removing the age old prejudice. Snakes are actually friends of man and how they contribute to our welfare and also the part they play in the scheme of nature needs to be highlighted through such parks. Indeed, this park is doing wonderfully well in these directions. I wish that this park provides necessary leadership for the establishment of many such parks in India to ensure the survival of our snakes and to educate millions of our citizens.

\* \* \*

FURTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1980 HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:

Richard D. Bartlett  
Daniel Fernandez  
Kishor K. Gohil  
Charles Greyhosky  
R. J. Gaplewski  
C. M. Keene  
Dr. Konrad Klemmer  
H. S. Premkumar  
Chandrasekhar Kar  
Matampu Kunjukuttan  
Raymond Loque  
Dr. M. V. Subba Rao

Dr. T. S. N. Murthy  
Ms. Janet Mitchell  
Louis Porris  
Aasheesh Pittie  
Asad Rafi Rahmani  
Diana Ratnagar  
N. Ram  
Messrs. J. K. Synthetics Ltd.  
P. M. Vasantharajan  
D. M. Vardhu  
Librarian, Wildlife Division,  
Papua New Guinea.

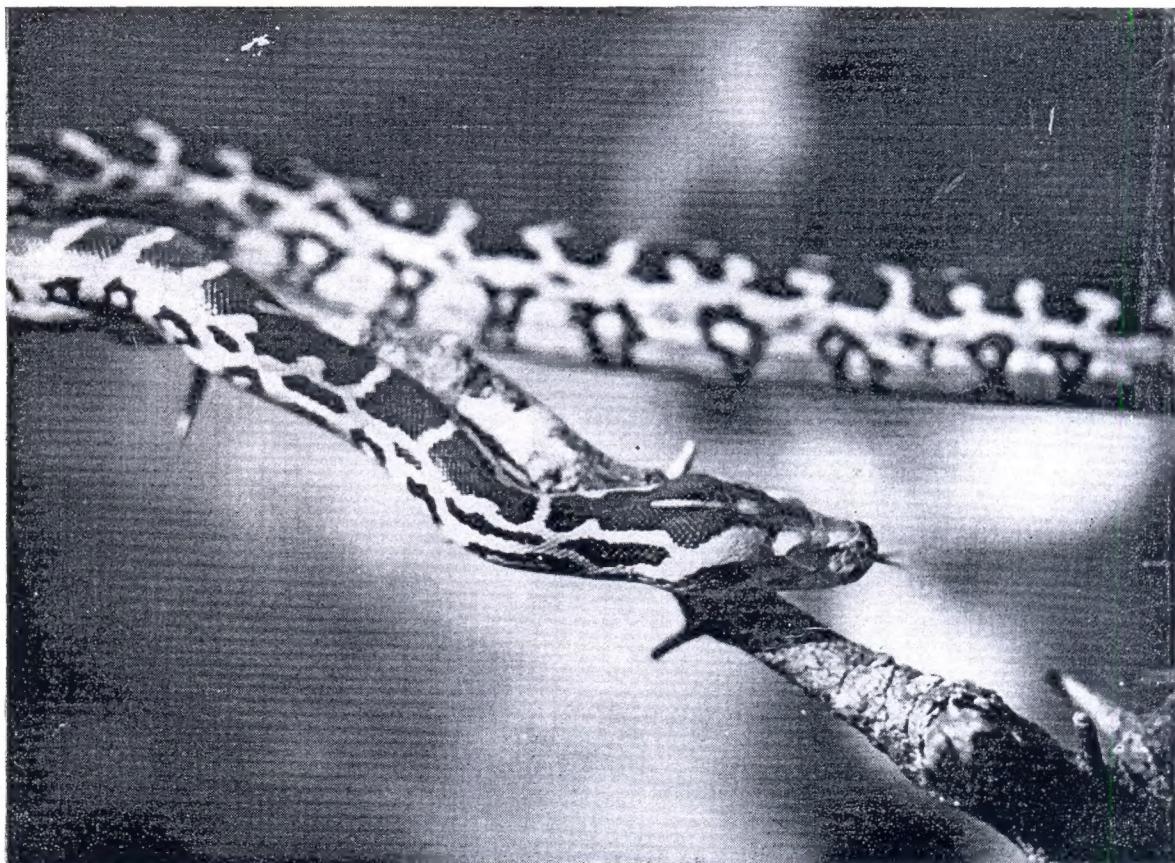


One of the 25 baby Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) hatched at the MSPT on 26th May.

## S U B S C R I P T I O N

Local : Rs. 10 annually  
Foreign : \$ 2 annually (surface)  
\$ 4 annually (air-mail)

Cheques should be made to the Madras Snake Park Trust



A baby Indian Python (*Python molurus molurus*) that hatched at the MSPT on 23rd July.